

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Thomas E. Barta, et al.  
Serial No: TBA  
Filed: December 29, 2003  
For: Aromatic Sulfone Hydroxamic Acid Metalloprotease Inhibitor  
Group Art Unit: TBA  
Examiner: TBA  
Attorney Ref: 3124/5A/US  
HDP Ref: 6794-000017/DVF  
Divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/570,731 (filed May 12, 2000;  
group art unit 1625, Examiner Celia Chang)

December 29, 2003

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,  
SIR/MADAM:

The above-referenced patent application enclosed herewith is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/570,731 (filed May 12, 2000). Applicants request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered into the above-referenced divisional application.

**Amendments to the specification** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 23.

**Remarks** begin on page 50.

**Appendix A** (showing a marked-up version of the amendments to specification) begins on page 58.

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